

**Table 51 (page 1 of 2). Hearing limitations among adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 2007–2012**

Updated data when available, Excel, PDF, more data years, and standard errors: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2013.htm#051>.

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Level of hearing trouble											
	Any hearing trouble (a little, moderate, a lot of trouble, or deaf) <sup>1</sup>				Moderate, a lot of trouble, or deaf <sup>1</sup>				A lot of trouble or deaf <sup>1</sup>			
	2007	2010	2011	2012	2007	2010	2011	2012	2007	2010	2011	2012
Percent of adults												
18 years and over, age-adjusted <sup>2,3</sup>	14.7	15.6	15.3	15.1	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.4	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.0
18 years and over, crude <sup>3</sup>	14.9	16.2	16.0	16.0	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.7	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0
Age												
18–44 years	6.0	6.7	6.2	6.2	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4
18–24 years	4.1	5.4	4.1	4.3	*	*1.2	*0.7	*1.2	*	*	*	*
25–44 years	6.6	7.2	6.9	6.8	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5
45–64 years	17.6	18.9	18.9	19.2	6.0	6.1	6.1	5.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.7
45–54 years	14.7	15.6	15.4	16.0	4.1	4.8	4.7	4.6	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.3
55–64 years	21.5	23.2	23.0	22.9	8.5	7.8	7.7	7.1	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.0
65 years and over	36.9	37.5	37.9	35.9	18.6	17.7	18.0	16.3	8.7	7.6	7.7	7.0
65–74 years	29.8	31.2	30.2	29.4	11.9	12.9	12.6	10.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.0
75 years and over	45.0	45.2	47.4	44.4	26.3	23.7	24.6	23.6	13.3	11.1	11.6	11.1
Sex <sup>2</sup>												
Male	18.3	18.9	18.7	18.2	7.7	7.4	7.5	7.2	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.6
Female	11.5	12.7	12.3	12.3	3.9	4.3	4.1	3.9	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5
Sex and age												
Male:												
18–44 years	6.8	7.7	7.2	6.9	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.8	*0.5	*0.7	*0.6	*0.5
45–54 years	18.7	18.2	18.3	18.7	5.3	5.7	6.1	5.6	1.5	*1.1	*1.8	1.6
55–64 years	28.4	30.1	30.0	29.1	12.9	11.5	11.2	10.3	4.7	3.9	3.2	2.8
65–74 years	39.4	41.0	38.7	39.3	17.7	17.9	17.3	16.1	7.0	6.7	6.0	5.9
75 years and over	54.6	53.1	56.5	52.1	34.8	29.7	32.2	31.8	16.9	14.5	14.7	14.2
Female:												
18–44 years	5.1	5.8	5.1	5.4	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.3	*0.3	*0.3	0.5	0.4
45–54 years	11.0	13.0	12.5	13.3	2.9	3.9	3.3	3.7	*1.0	*1.3	1.1	*1.1
55–64 years	15.0	16.7	16.4	17.1	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.1	*1.3	1.6	1.6	1.3
65–74 years	21.8	22.8	22.8	20.8	6.9	8.6	8.5	5.9	2.8	2.9	3.3	*2.2
75 years and over	38.8	39.9	41.1	39.1	20.9	19.7	19.3	18.1	11.1	8.9	9.5	9.0
Race <sup>2,4</sup>												
White only	15.6	16.5	16.2	16.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	5.8	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1
Black or African American only	8.5	10.3	10.0	10.0	2.7	3.3	3.1	2.7	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
American Indian or Alaska Native only	17.9	21.1	16.0	13.0	*8.8	*7.1	*6.2	*	*3.8	*	*	*
Asian only	8.0	8.0	9.1	9.7	2.8	2.6	3.6	3.4	*	*1.0	*1.8	*1.2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2 or more races	24.4	23.3	21.2	19.3	11.5	8.7	*6.7	*5.4	*4.9	*	*	*
Hispanic origin and race <sup>2,4</sup>												
Hispanic or Latino	10.9	10.9	11.8	11.3	4.3	3.5	3.6	4.1	2.5	1.4	1.4	2.0
Mexican	11.8	11.5	13.2	12.4	4.4	3.5	3.9	4.5	2.5	*1.5	1.6	*2.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	15.2	16.2	15.8	15.7	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.5	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.0
White only	16.5	17.5	17.0	16.9	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.0	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.1
Black or African American only	8.4	10.3	10.0	9.9	2.7	3.3	3.1	2.8	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
Education <sup>5,6</sup>												
25 years and over:												
No high school diploma or GED	17.9	19.7	18.7	17.2	7.6	8.1	7.4	5.7	4.1	3.2	3.1	2.5
High school diploma or GED	17.2	18.1	19.2	18.3	6.4	6.5	7.5	6.8	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.6
Some college or more	15.4	16.2	15.5	15.9	6.1	6.0	5.5	5.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 51 (page 2 of 2). Hearing limitations among adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 2007–2012**

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[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Level of hearing trouble											
	Any hearing trouble (a little, moderate, a lot of trouble, or deaf) <sup>1</sup>				Moderate, a lot of trouble, or deaf <sup>1</sup>				A lot of trouble or deaf <sup>1</sup>			
	2007	2010	2011	2012	2007	2010	2011	2012	2007	2010	2011	2012
Percent of poverty level <sup>2,7</sup>					Percent of adults							
Below 100% . . . . .	16.2	16.7	16.7	16.6	6.8	6.8	6.1	6.1	3.4	2.7	2.7	2.7
100%–199% . . . . .	15.5	17.2	16.2	16.0	5.8	6.6	6.1	5.9	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.3
200%–399% . . . . .	15.1	15.7	16.2	15.6	5.8	5.6	6.3	5.4	2.4	2.1	2.4	1.9
400% or more . . . . .	13.6	14.5	13.5	13.7	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.9	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level <sup>2,4,7</sup>												
Hispanic or Latino:												
Below 100% . . . . .	12.7	9.1	11.0	12.2	*6.1	*3.5	3.3	4.5	*	*	*1.3	*1.8
100%–199% . . . . .	9.7	11.8	12.7	11.3	*3.1	4.3	3.7	3.6	*2.1	*2.3	*1.8	*
200%–399% . . . . .	9.8	10.3	11.8	10.8	*3.9	*2.6	3.2	4.1	*	*	*1.3	*2.0
400% or more . . . . .	13.3	12.4	11.6	11.0	*5.6	*3.2	*4.6	*4.9	*	*	*	*
Not Hispanic or Latino:												
White only:												
Below 100% . . . . .	20.9	21.7	20.5	21.1	8.8	9.2	8.2	8.3	4.3	3.7	3.6	3.6
100%–199% . . . . .	18.8	20.8	18.6	19.5	7.2	8.3	7.3	7.3	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.7
200%–399% . . . . .	17.2	17.9	18.2	17.8	6.4	6.5	7.2	6.2	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.0
400% or more . . . . .	14.3	15.4	14.6	14.6	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.2	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.8
Black or African American only:												
Below 100% . . . . .	9.3	11.6	13.9	12.9	*2.8	4.0	3.6	4.1	*	*1.5	*1.6	*2.1
100%–199% . . . . .	9.8	11.1	12.0	10.3	*3.1	3.0	3.4	3.1	*	*0.7	*1.5	*1.2
200%–399% . . . . .	7.8	10.4	8.8	8.9	*2.2	3.6	2.7	*2.1	*	*	*1.0	*
400% or more . . . . .	7.1	7.7	6.1	8.2	*	*2.8	*3.1	*	*	*	*	*
Geographic region <sup>2</sup>												
Northeast . . . . .	13.3	13.9	13.0	12.7	5.2	4.4	4.9	4.1	1.7	1.4	2.3	1.6
Midwest . . . . .	16.0	17.5	16.4	17.1	6.1	6.3	6.0	5.8	2.3	2.3	1.9	2.0
South . . . . .	14.0	16.0	15.9	15.0	5.4	6.3	5.9	5.8	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.2
West . . . . .	15.5	14.4	15.1	15.1	5.9	5.3	5.7	5.4	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.9
Location of residence <sup>2</sup>												
Within MSA <sup>8</sup> . . . . .	14.0	14.7	14.6	14.5	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.2	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.9
Outside MSA <sup>8</sup> . . . . .	18.0	20.1	19.1	18.0	7.2	7.5	7.5	6.4	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.4

\* Estimates are considered unreliable. Data preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error (RSE) of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%.

<sup>1</sup>Starting in 2007, respondents were asked, “WITHOUT the use of hearing aids or other listening devices, is your hearing excellent, good, a little trouble hearing, moderate trouble, a lot of trouble, or are you deaf?”

<sup>2</sup>Estimates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using five age groups: 18–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. Age-adjusted estimates in this table may differ from other age-adjusted estimates based on the same data and presented elsewhere if different age groups are used in the adjustment procedure. See [Appendix II, Age adjustment](#).

<sup>3</sup>Includes all other races not shown separately and unknown education level.

<sup>4</sup>The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity* and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The five single-race categories plus multiple-race categories shown in the table conform to the 1997 Standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group; the category 2 or more races includes persons who reported more than one racial group. Prior to 1999, data were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards with four racial groups, and the Asian only category included Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1999 included persons who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race were treated as missing, and then race was imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all persons with a race response of other race were of Hispanic origin. See [Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race](#).

<sup>5</sup>Estimates are for persons aged 25 and over and are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using five age groups: 25–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. See [Appendix II, Age adjustment](#).

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma. See [Appendix II, Education](#).

<sup>7</sup>Percent of poverty level is based on family income and family size and composition using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds. Missing family income data were imputed for 1997 and beyond. See [Appendix II, Family income; Poverty; Table VI](#).

<sup>8</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area. Starting with 2006 data, MSA status is determined using 2000 census data and the 2000 standards for defining MSAs. For data prior to 2006, see [Appendix II, Metropolitan statistical area \(MSA\)](#) for the applicable standards.

NOTES: Starting with *Health, United States, 2013*, the hearing measures shown in this table were revised to provide a consistent definition over time. For a longer trend, see *Health, United States, 2012*. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>. Standard errors are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>. Data for additional years are available. See the Excel spreadsheet on the *Health, United States* website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, sample adult questionnaire. See [Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey \(NHIS\)](#).